

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Currently amended) A process for the synthesis of ion imprinted polymer particles for solid phase extraction preconcentration of erbium ions ~~which comprises, the process consisting essentially of:~~
 - (a) forming a mixed ligand ternary complex of erbium imprint ion with 5,7-dichloroquinoline-8-ol and 4-vinyl pyridine;
 - (b) dissolving the ternary complex in a suitable porogen to form a pre-polymerizing mixture;
 - (c) combining the mixture of step (b) with a functional monomer and a crosslinking monomer and polymerizing by γ -irradiation or by photochemical and thermal polymerization to obtain a polymer material;
 - (d) grinding and sieving of polymer material obtained in (c) to prepare erbium ion imprinted polymer particles;
 - (e) selective leaching of imprint ion embedded materials in the polymer particles of (d) using a mineral acid.
2. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the γ -irradiation is carried out as a function of methyl methacrylate (functional monomer) concentration.
3. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the photochemical polymerization is carried out as a function of time of UV irradiation.
4. (Currently amended) A The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the thermal polymerization is carried out as a function of ethyleneglycoldimethacrylate (crosslinking monomer) concentration.

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